

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

January 4, 2005

Los Angeles County has the largest homeless population in the nation. In an effort to comprehensively address homeless issues, the County and City of Los Angeles initiated a campaign to end homelessness, *Bring Los Angeles Home*, which brings together partners from government, business, social services and faith-based organizations, and the homeless/formerly homeless community. One of the most important and cost-effective strategies to end homelessness is to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Many people who are at great risk of becoming homeless receive, or are eligible to receive, services and assistance from County Departments, such as foster youth, incarcerated individuals, adults and youth with mental health issues, individuals with disabilities, and people who are very poor. In the interest of reducing homelessness and ultimately ending homelessness in Los Angeles County, County departments must take a proactive role in helping meet the needs of their homeless clients and in implementing policies and discharge procedures that prevent future homelessness.

Additionally, the federal government requires that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority include in its application for Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funds a description of efforts to ensure that a “discharge policy for persons leaving

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publicly funded institutions or systems of care is being developed and implemented to prevent the discharge of persons from immediately resulting in homelessness and requiring assistance from homeless programs.”

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that each of the following County Departments: Public Social Services, Probation, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Health Services (including the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration), Community and Senior Services and Sheriff, report to the Board of Supervisors in 60 days on the following:

- 1) Current Department discharge policies and procedures, which ensure that persons are discharged to appropriate housing situations and are connected to services as needed; and any barriers to successful implementation of such policies and procedures; or
- 2) If the Department currently does not have policies and procedures to ensure discharge of persons to appropriate housing situations and needed services, a plan to modify or create policies and practices that do not contribute to homelessness, including a timeline for the Department to implement such plan.

**I, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Administrative Office convene one or more meetings of the above referenced departments, the Community Development Commission, the Department of Regional Planning and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, to discuss coordination of the discharge practices among County Departments and enhancement of service integration for the benefit of at-risk and homeless people, and to report back to the Board in 120 days the results of those meetings.